

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An applicator for applying paint to a surface, the applicator including a body for paint, paint distribution means to distribute paint in use onto a surface by contact with that surface, the body including paint biasing means to bias, in use, the paint toward the distribution means, ~~an operator in use holding the tool by the body and operating control means for control of the bias means~~ and configured to act in association with operating control means for control of the bias means and so the flow of paint to the paint distribution means, the applicator characterized in that the paint biasing means acts by applying incremental axial displacement of the paint; the head includes mounting means for rotably mounting a roller with a roller surface which in use contacts the surface to be painted, the head includes flow regulation means to regulate the flow of paint to the roller surface in association with the biasing means and the flow regulation means includes a gap defined between the distribution means surface and the hood, achieved by positioning of the mounting means within the head.
2. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the paint distribution means is releasably engageable with the body and forms a separable applicator head.
3. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 2, wherein the head includes mounting means for rotably mounting a roller with a roller surface which in use contacts the surface to be painted.

4. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 3, wherein the head includes a hood which partially encloses the roller.
5. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 4, wherein the head includes flow regulation means to regulate the flow of paint to the roller surface in association with the biasing means.
6. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 5, wherein the flow regulation means includes a gap defined between a distribution means surface and the hood.
7. (currently amended) An applicator as claimed in claim 6, wherein the head includes at least one passage defined in the hood ~~and normally a plurality of passages therein~~.
8. (currently amended) An applicator as claimed in claim 7, wherein where there is more than one passage the passages are arranged in a row running parallel with the axis of the distribution means surface.
9. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 8, wherein the row of passages extends substantially the width of the surface.
10. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 8, wherein the row is shorter in length than the width of the surface, and each end of the row is not less than 25mm from the corresponding end of the surface.

11. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 10, wherein the gap is at a minimum at or adjacent to the or each passage.
12. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 11, wherein the hood includes a concave internal hood surface.
13. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 12, wherein the hood has a different radius to the roller surface.
14. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 13, wherein the hood is of larger radius than the surface.
15. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 14, wherein the roller surface and the hood surface are not concentric.
16. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 15, wherein the roller surface and hood surface diverge away from each other about the passages.
17. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 16, wherein the head includes a recess defined in the hood, and the or each passage leads to the recess.
18. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 17, wherein the recess forms a plenum chamber.

19. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 18, wherein the recess extends substantially the width of the distribution means surface.
20. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 19, wherein each end of the recess is not less than 18mm from the corresponding end of the distribution means surface.
21. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 20, wherein edges are defined where the recess meets the internal hood surface, and the gap is at a minimum at the edges.
22. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 21, wherein the distribution means surface contacts the edges.
23. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 22, wherein elongate projections are provided along the edges parallel to the roll axis of the roller, and the projections are rounded in form.
24. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 3, wherein the mounting means for the roller are adjustable, so that a minimum gap is adjustable.
25. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 3, wherein the mounting means allows the roller to be removed from the head.

26. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 3, wherein a paint trap is provided adjacent to the roller.
27. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is a stop member to limit the bias means for control of the flow of paint.
28. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bias means is associated with an extension handle to allow displaced or elevated operation of the applicator.
29. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the distribution means surface includes textures or patterns to facilitate paint distribution on the surface to be painted.
30. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the body includes holding means for a paint container.
31. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 30, wherein the paint container is removable.
32. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 30, wherein the paint container is elongate with an oval or rectangular cross-section with the major axis substantially aligned with a slot of the applicator.
33. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the body includes refilling means.

34. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 33, wherein the refilling means comprises a threaded end cap.

35. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the paint biasing means includes a plunger, which is movable to act on the paint in the body or the paint container such that as the plunger advances, the bias on the paint forces flow to the paint distribution means.

36. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 35, wherein the plunger includes rod means, which extends away substantially along the longitudinal axis of the body from a plunger head acting upon the paint.

37. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 36, wherein the body includes gripping means having a handle in the form of a tube having a passage therethrough.

38. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 37, wherein the rod means extends into and along the handle.

39. (currently amended) An applicator as claimed in claim 38, wherein the rod means extends beyond the handle and ~~may include~~ includes a gripping portion at its distal end by which the plunger ~~may be~~ is moved.

40. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 39, wherein the gripping portion includes a lateral extension, extending laterally beyond the handle.

41. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 40, wherein the lateral extension forms a base on which the tool is supported, and includes a planar surface perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the body.

42. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 41, wherein the rod means comprises a rod extending from the plunger head and a gripping member telescopically mounted within the handle and slidably engaged with the rod.

43. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 42, wherein a gripping portion is mounted on the gripping member.

44. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 43, wherein the gripping member is biased to a retracted position.

45. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 37, wherein the control means includes a trigger mounted on or adjacent to the handle.

46. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 45, wherein the handle includes a linkage operable by the trigger to advance the plunger.

47. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 46, wherein the linkage comprises a link plate having an oversized aperture through which the rod passes.

48. (original) An applicator as claimed in claim 47, wherein the link plate is biased towards the trigger and, in a relaxed condition, out of engagement with the plunger, so that as the

trigger is operated the link plate is brought into engagement with the plunger, further operation of the trigger moving the link plate towards the paint in the body or container and causing the plunger to advance to bias the paint towards the distribution means.

49. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 2, wherein the applicator includes connection means interposed between the applicator head and the body.

50. (previously presented) An applicator as claimed in claim 49, wherein the connection means is articulated to allow the angle of the paint distribution means to be varied relative to the longitudinal axis of the body.

51. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 30, wherein the paint container is formed of translucent material, to provide a visual indication of the amount of paint in the container.

52. (cancelled)

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67. (cancelled)

68. (withdrawn) An applicator for applying paint to a surface, the applicator including paint biasing means to facilitate flow of paint to paint distribution means, the paint biasing means including a grip configured to progressively displace a plunger or piston in order to facilitate paint flow, the displacement range of that grip limited in order to similarly limit displacement of the piston and therefore rate of paint flow.

69. (withdrawn) An applicator as claimed in claim 68, wherein grip displacement is limited by a stop member.

70. (withdrawn) An applicator in which paint biasing means facilitates paint flow to paint distribution means wherein the paint bias means is associated with an extension handle which extends from the paint distribution means to the paint biasing means characterized in that the extension handle allows operation of the applicator at a displaced or elevated position whilst still allowing appropriate displaced operation of the paint biasing means by retention of the paint bias means with the paint distribution means all at one end of the handle and a push rod to operate that paint bias means extending from another end of the handle.

71. (withdrawn) An applicator for applying paint to a surface, the applicator including paint distribution means within which an effective slot outlet is provided through which paint is presented to paint distribution means through use of paint biasing means, the paint being accommodated within a paint canister, characterized in that the paint canister has a cross-section of elongate dimensions such that the major axis of the canister is substantially aligned with the slot for better paint distribution through that slot by the paint biasing means.

72. (cancelled)

73. (currently amended) An applicator for applying paint to a surface wherein that paint is distributed by a roller and the roller is secured through a cam whereby the roller rotates with a rollover rotation past a paint outlet characterized in that the rollover rotation is

eccentric with differing gap widths between a first gap width between a roller surface and the outlet on one side and a separate gap width between the roller surface and the outlet on another opposed side of the outlet ~~on the other side~~ in the roller rotation direction.

74. (currently amended) An applicator as claimed in claim 73, wherein ~~a slot~~ an aperture is provided within which a pin is secured to provide for eccentric rotation as well as varying the gap width between the roller and the respective sides one side and the other opposed side of the outlet.

75. (cancelled)